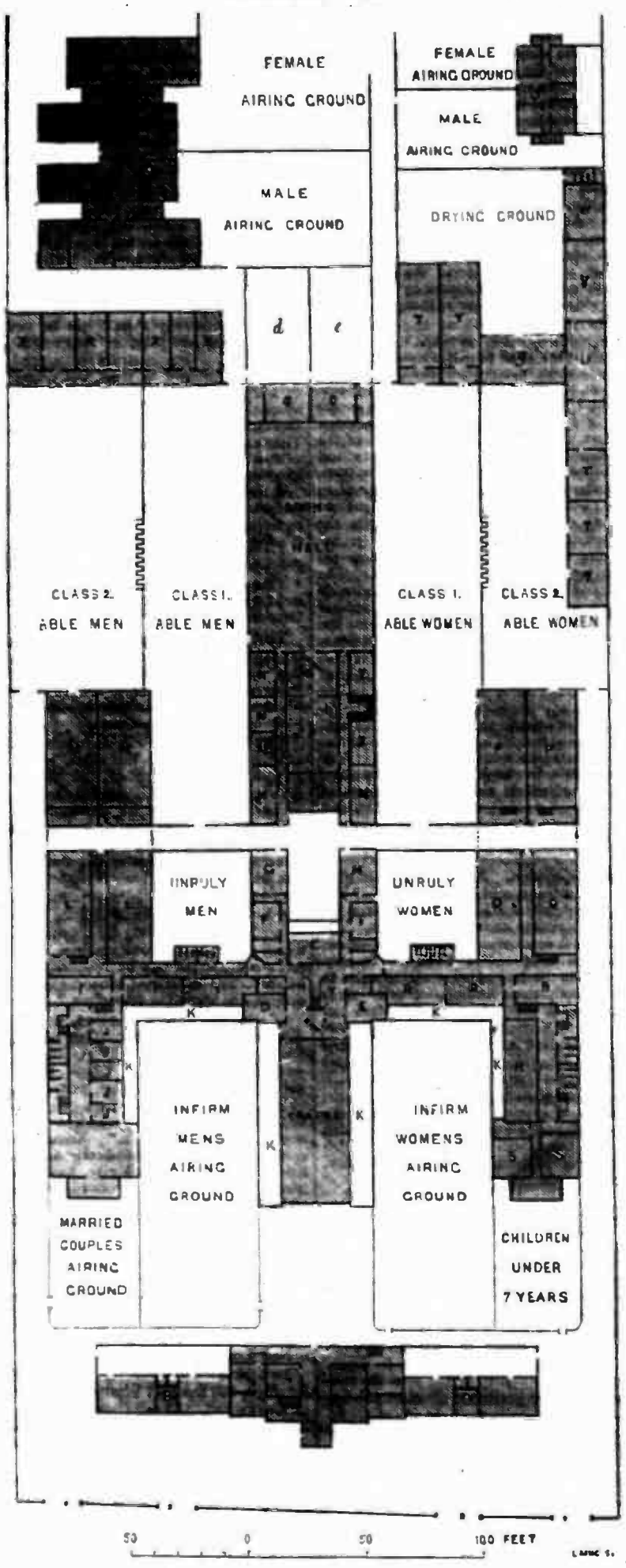
CITY OF LONDON WORKHOUSE.

GENERAL BLOCK PLAN.



THE CITY OF LONDON UNION WORKHOUSE.

In accordance with the promise made when we gave a view of the new City of London workhouse, recently erected in the Bow-road,* we annex a general block plan of the establishment, with descriptive references. It is intended to accommodate 1,200 persons. The dining hall, an apartment of large size (about 100 ft. long and more than 50 ft. wide), has an open timber roof, of queen-post construction. The chapel roof, the general effect of which the architect should endeavour to improve before the building is thrown open, has cast-iron principals resting on small iron columns.

References.

A. Porter's lodge and committee rooms.
B. Receiving wards.
C. Master's office.
D. Master's room.
E. Matron's room.
F. Stores.
G. Assistant master.
H. Assistant matrons.
I. Infirm men.
J. Married couples' rooms.
K. Arcades.
L. Unruly men.
M. Able-bodied men.
N. Stores.
O. Imbecile wards.
P. Able-bodied women.
Q. Unruly women.
R. Infirm women.
S. Children under 7.
T. Work-rooms.
U. Drying room.
V. Laundry.
W. Mangling room.
X. Workshops.
Y. Central hall, with a staircase communicating with all parts of the house.
Z. Steam-engine.
a. Scullery.
b. Kitchen.
c. Pantry.
d. Male imbecile airing ground.
e. Female imbecile airing ground.
f. Fever wards.
g. Washhouse.

MODEL TOWNS.†

That the establishment of model dwellings, baths, and washhouses,—the opening of mechanics' and other instructive and national institutions, museums, libraries, lecture-rooms, and schools,—the promotion of sanitary reform in towns, and the laying out of public parks, walks, and pleasure-grounds around them,—the agitation of the short-time or early-closing movement,—&c., &c., are all preparing the way, however slowly or feebly, for a mighty organization and expansion into model streets, districts, and *towns*, there cannot, we think, be a doubt. The principles of such improvements, if commendable in detail, cannot but be good in the aggregate; that which is beneficial here and there, cannot be much otherwise when everywhere extended. But it is not in the form of such model elements and exemplars alone as those we have just instanced that the first beginnings of a vast and promising, and as it were a natural and inevitable process or growth of accumulative *system*, or enlightened associative organization of families and individuals into great and exemplary *commonwealths*, can be traced. We observe the rudiments of the same interesting and growing process also in those wide-spreading and increasing agglomerations of men into organized and powerful unions such as those of joint-stock and other common-good associations, which would seem to be rapidly crystallizing, as it were, the loose and heterogeneous units of self-interest in the community, and requiring only, one would almost think, to spread forth a network of connecting tentacles or radii from their separate centres, till the whole be interlaced and combined into just such a wider and more comprehensive joint-stock union or association for the common weal, as ought of itself, together with combinations for health and enjoyment, as well as for industry and wealth, to constitute a sort of model town.

It would be well, however, at once to bring a system of enlightened and connected purposes to bear upon these striking features of the nineteenth century, and to guide its pregnant developments into proper, permanent, and concurrent channels of direction, for the simultaneous common good of *every class* of the community. With joint-stock and other great associations and establishments, commercial or manufacturing, and much more so with more limited companies and individual

* See page 379, *ante*.

† National Evils and Practical Remedies: with the Plan of a Model Town. Illustrated by Two Engravings. Accompanied by an Examination of some Important Moral and Political Problems. By James S. Buckingham. P. Jackson, St. Martin's-le-Grand.

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